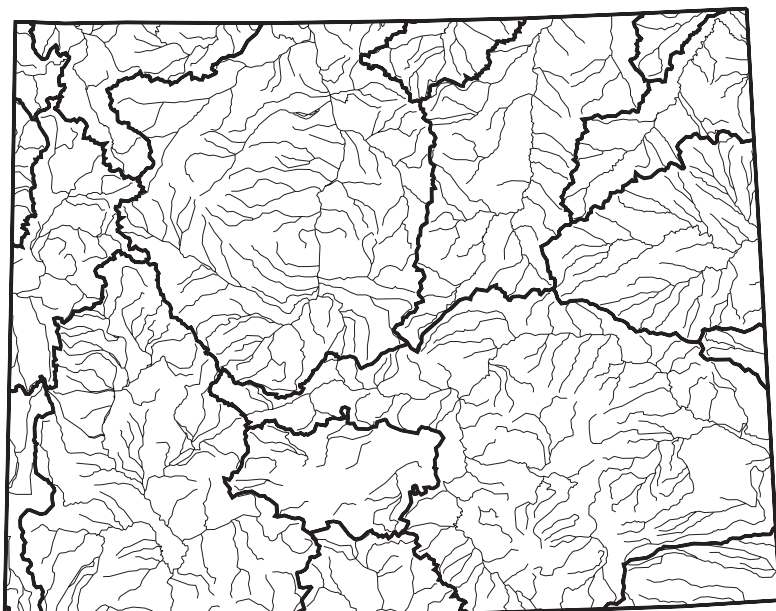


Wyoming



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Wyoming 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Of the 5,714 river miles surveyed, 37% fully support aquatic life uses, 4% fully support these uses now but are threatened, 55% partially support aquatic life uses, and 4% do not support aquatic life uses. The most widespread problems in rivers and streams are siltation and sediment, nutrients, total dissolved solids and salinity, flow alterations, and habitat alterations. The most prevalent sources of water quality problems in rivers and streams are

rangeland, natural sources, irrigated cropland, pasture land, and construction of highways, roads, and bridges.

In lakes, 54% of the surveyed acres fully support aquatic life uses and 46% partially support these uses. The leading problems in lakes are low dissolved oxygen concentrations and organic enrichment, nutrients, sediment and siltation, other inorganic substances, and metals. The most prevalent sources of water quality problems in lakes are natural sources, rangeland, irrigated cropland, flow regulation, and municipal sewage treatment plants.

The State's water quality survey is designed to identify water quality problems, so it is reasonable to assume that most of the unassessed waters are not impacted. However, the State lacks definitive information to that effect.

Ground Water Quality

Some aquifers in Wyoming have naturally high levels of fluoride, selenium, and radionuclides. Petroleum hydrocarbons are the most prevalent type of contaminants impacting Wyoming ground waters, followed by halogenated solvents, salinity/brine, nitrates, and pesticides. Leaking underground storage tanks are the most numerous source of contamination. Other sources include mineral mining, agricultural activities, spills, landfills, septic tank leachfields, and other industrial sites.

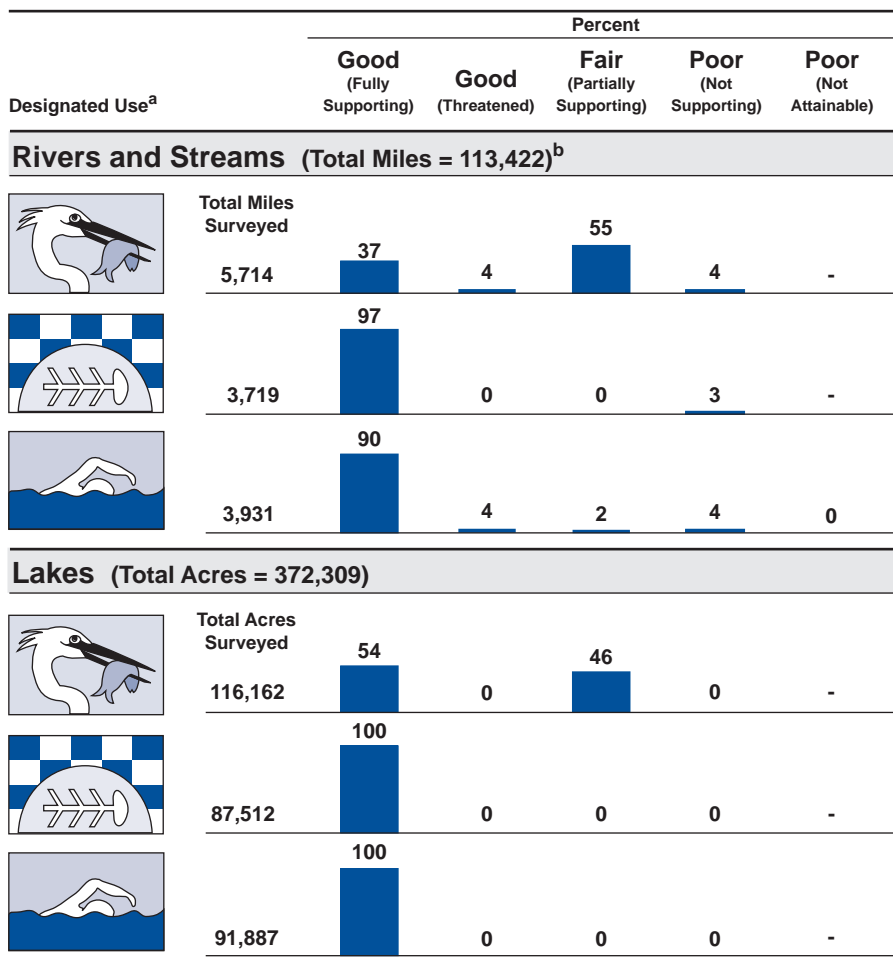
Programs to Restore Water Quality

Wyoming requires discharger permits and construction permits for all wastewater treatment facilities. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reviews proposed plans and specifications to ensure that plants meet minimum design criteria. Wyoming's nonpoint source program is a nonregulatory program that promotes better management practices for all land use activities, including grazing, timber harvesting, and hydrologic modifications.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Wyoming is currently monitoring reference stream sites around the State in order to define characteristics of relatively undisturbed streams in each ecoregion. Limited funding precluded a comprehensive watershed effort for surface water assessment. The State is sampling chemical and biological parameters, such as dissolved oxygen, nutrients, aquatic insect species composition, species abundance, and habitat conditions at the candidate reference stream sites. Once established, the reference site conditions will serve as the basis for assessing other streams in the same ecoregion or subecoregion. Wyoming will use the reference conditions to establish a volunteer biological monitoring program.

Individual Use Support in Wyoming



- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Wyoming's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.